

Tennessee's birth data supplies information that is useful to health professionals in the implementation of research and programs to improve the health of both mothers and babies. The prenatal period can be the beginning of a lifetime of good health, or it can be the start of years of illness, impairment, and shortened life expectancy. Low birth-weight can be linked to various risk factors that include developmental delay, respiratory distress syndrome, and congenital anomalies.

Early and comprehensive prenatal care can reduce rates of infant deaths and low birth-weight. Educating women on the effects of maternal risk factors such as poor nutrition, cigarette smoking, and alcohol and drug usage is an important tool in the strategy for healthier babies.

Maternal age is a risk factor for both under 18 years of age and 40 years and older. Adolescents are at particular risk of having low birth-weight babies, and women over age 40 also are at risk for low birth-weight and higher rates of births with congenital anomalies. By studying birth trends and maternal factors, health providers are better able to identify problem areas and establish intervention programs and services for high-risk infants.

More detailed county level birth data may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Research or by visiting our website at the address below.

Please visit the **Health Statistics and Research** and **Health Information Tennessee (HIT)** pages on the Tennessee Department of Health website:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/health>

1999 Total Population 5,483,535	1999 White Population 4,548,426	1999 Black Population 874,007
1999 Total Female (10-17) Population 296,551	1999 White Female (10-17) Population 232,393	1999 Black Female (10-17) Population 60,332

**NOTE:** The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report were based on estimates prepared from the 1990 census by the Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. On June 19, 2000 population projections were revised by Health Statistics and Research. These revised projection figures were based on updated county total estimates released by the Bureau of the Census, and may result in rates that differ from those previously published.

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# Report of Tennessee Births 1999

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF POLICY PLANNING  
AND ASSESSMENT  
HEALTH STATISTICS  
AND RESEARCH

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## INTRODUCTION

### REPORT OF TENNESSEE BIRTHS 1999

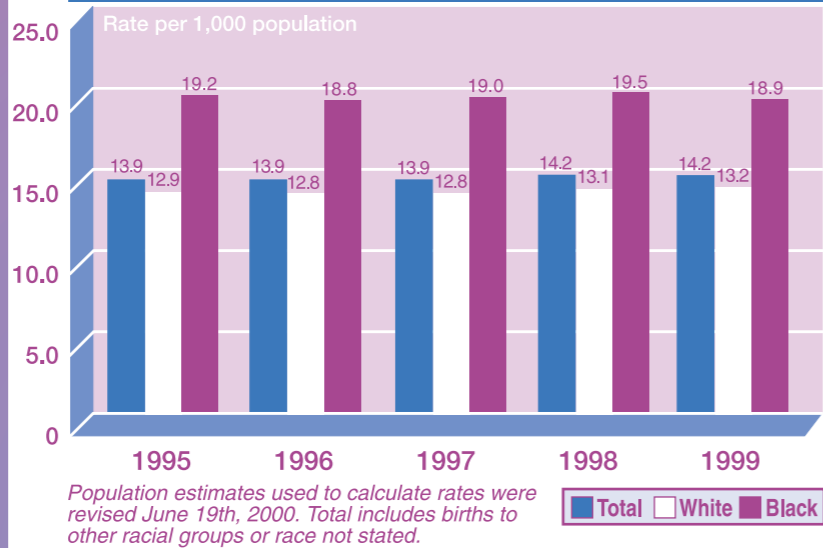
*provides information on final birth data for state residents. Resident data includes events that occurred to residents of the state irrespective of where the events took place. Certificates filed with the Office of Vital Records supplied the data for this report. Copies of certificates occurring to Tennessee residents in other states are forwarded to Tennessee in the interstate transfer of these certificates.*

TENNESSEE'S TOTAL BIRTH TREND INDICATES A GRADUAL DECLINE SINCE THE 1940'S WHEN THE RATES WERE AT RECORD HIGHS. The 1999 total birth rate of 14.2 per 1,000 population remained the same as the rate in 1998, although the number of births increased 0.6 percent. From 1990-1999, Tennessee's total birth and adolescent birth rates decreased, while births to unmarried women, low-weight births, and multiple births all increased over the ten-year period.

IN 1999, THERE WERE 77,761 TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS TO TENNESSEE RESIDENTS. Of the total, 59,823 or 76.9 percent were white and 16,482 or 21.2 percent were black. There were 4,094 births to females ages 10-17 combined. This number represented a 7.5 percent decrease from the previous year for this age group. There were 7,346 births to females 35 years and older. Births for this age group increased 4.0 percent over the previous year.

IN 1999, THE PERCENT OF TOTAL BIRTHS WITH ADEQUATE CARE WAS 74.4, AN INCREASE OF 9.9 PERCENT OVER 67.7 IN 1990. Over the ten-year period the percent of births with inadequate care decreased from 6.8 in 1990 to 4.8 in 1999. The percent of births with no care decreased 18.7 percent from 1.6 to 1.3 for the same period. The percent of births with adequate care increased for both whites and blacks from 1990 to 1999, but blacks still had the highest percentage of births with no care, 3.4 for 1999.

### LIVE BIRTHS BY RACE, RESIDENT DATA TENNESSEE, 1995-1999



### NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE AND RACE OF MOTHER, RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999

Age Groups	Total	White	Black
Total . . . . .	77,761	59,823	16,482
10-14 years . . .	246	96	148
15-17 years . . .	3,848	2,406	1,402
18-19 years . . .	7,838	5,507	2,266
20-24 years . . .	22,816	16,764	5,721
25-34 years . . .	35,443	28,853	5,774
35-44 years . . .	7,293	5,934	1,160
45+ years . . . .	53	48	3
Unknown	224	215	8

### NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS BY ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE AND RACE OF MOTHER, RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999

	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	77,761	100.0	59,823	100.0	16,482	100.0
Adequate . . .	57,826	74.4	46,744	78.1	10,082	61.2
Intermediate . .	15,187	19.5	10,354	17.3	4,503	27.3
Inadequate . . .	3,726	4.8	2,287	3.8	1,339	8.1
No care . . . . .	1,022	1.3	438	0.7	558	3.4

Percentages for care are derived from criteria defined in the Kessner Index, which classifies prenatal care on the basis of the number of prenatal visits, gestational age, and the trimester care began. In addition to the specific number of visits indicated for inadequate care, all women who started their care during the third trimester (28 weeks or later) were considered to have received inadequate care.

### NUMBER AND PERCENT OF BIRTHS BY WEIGHT, AND RACE OF MOTHER, RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999

	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	77,761	100.0	59,823	100.0	16,482	100.0
Under 2500 grams	7,151	9.2	4,705	7.9	2,341	14.2
1-1499 . . . . .	1,265	1.6	702	1.2	541	3.3
1500-2499 . . .	5,886	7.6	4,003	6.7	1,800	10.9
2500+ grams . .	70,591	90.8	55,110	92.1	14,139	85.8

IN 1999, 7,151 LOW BIRTHWEIGHT (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS) INFANTS WERE BORN. The 1999 percent of 9.2 for low birthweight was the highest for the ten-year period of 1990-1999. In 1990, 2.2 percent of total births were multiple births, but this percentage increased to 2.9 by 1999. The percentage of multiple births that was low-weight increased to 63.8 percent in 1999 from 57.4 in 1990.

ADOLESCENTS (10-17) AND MOTHERS AGED 40 YEARS AND OLDER FACE A GREATER RISK OF HAVING LOW-WEIGHT BABIES (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS). The percentage of total adolescent births (10-17) that was low-weight increased 9.9 percent from 1990 to 1999. The percent of low-birthweight for mothers 40 years and older increased 54.4 percent over the same time period.

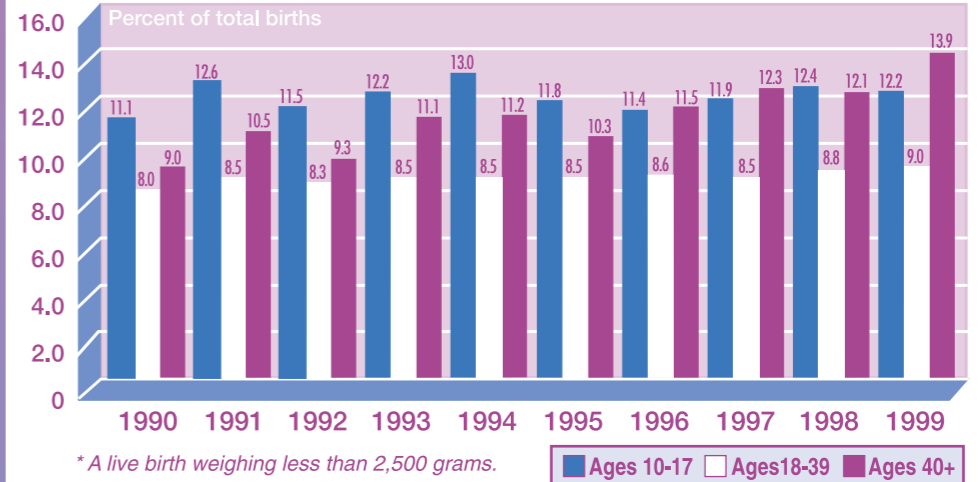
ADOLESCENT BIRTHS (10-17) BY RACE SHOW THE HIGHEST RATES PER 1,000 FEMALES FOR BLACKS. In 1999, the black adolescent birth rate of 25.7 was almost twice as high as the total adolescent birth rate of 13.8. The total birth rate for adolescents declined from 1990 to a ten-year low in 1999. The rates for whites (10.8) and blacks (25.7) also dropped to the lowest rates for the period 1990-1999.

### NUMBER OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED FEMALES BY AGE, WITH PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS BY AGE RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999

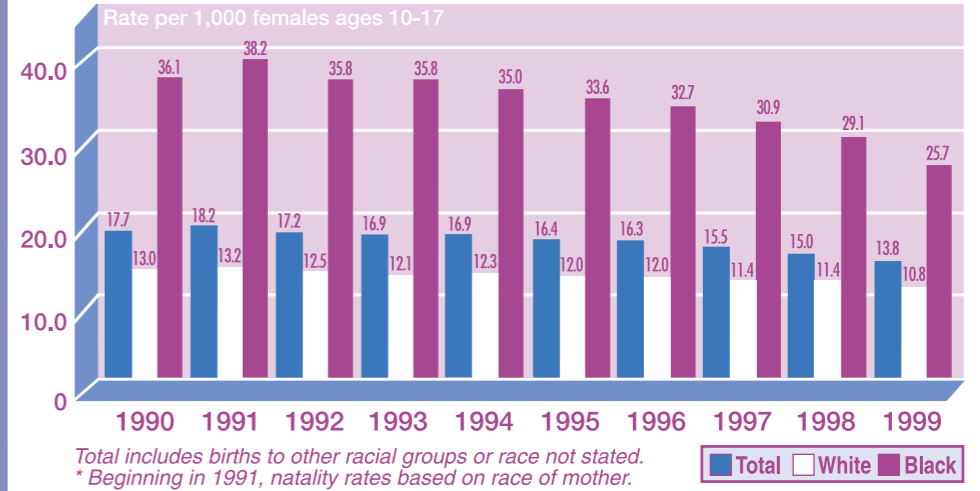
Age Groups	Total Number	Percent	White Number	Percent	Black Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	26,968	34.7	14,513	24.3	12,102	73.4
10-14 years . . .	240	97.6	90	93.8	148	100.0
15-17 years . . .	3,258	84.7	1,834	76.2	1,390	99.1
18-19 years . . .	5,261	67.1	3,058	55.5	2,158	95.2
20-24 years . . .	10,210	44.7	5,407	32.3	4,681	81.8
25-34 years . . .	6,744	19.0	3,447	11.9	3,171	54.9
35-44 years . . .	1,199	16.4	630	10.6	545	47.0
45+ years . . .	6	11.3	4	8.3	2	66.7

THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED FEMALES BY AGE SHOWS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGES WERE FOR FEMALES AGES 10-14 AND 15-17. In 1999, 99.2 percent of the black births to females ages 10-17 combined were to unmarried women, while 76.9 percent were to unmarried white females. The percentages decline as the age of mother increases. The negative effects of births to unmarried adolescents include social and economic consequences resulting from the interruption of schooling. These economic consequences are reflected in costs that are often supported by public assistance programs.

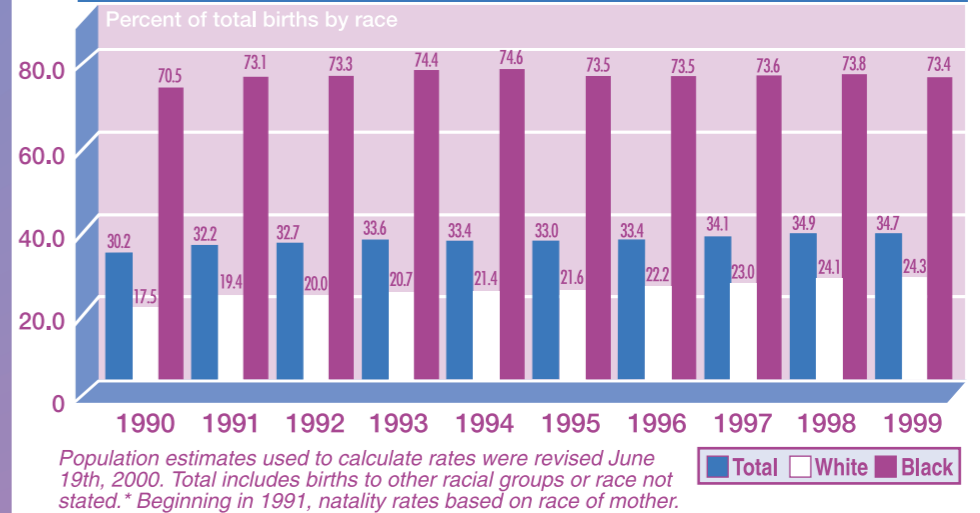
### PERCENT OF TOTAL BIRTHS THAT WERE LOW-WEIGHT\* BY AGE OF MOTHER RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999



### ADOLESCENT BIRTH (10-17) RATES, BY RACE\* RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999



### PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN BY RACE\* RESIDENT DATA, TENNESSEE, 1999



THE PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED WOMEN BY RACE FOR 1990-1999 SHOWED THE HIGHEST RATES FOR BLACK WOMEN ALTHOUGH WHITE WOMEN HAD THE GREATEST INCREASE. The total percent of births to unmarried women increased 14.9 percent from 1990 to 1999. The percent for whites increased 38.9 percent, while the percent for blacks only increased 4.1 percent over the same period.